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12 May 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, during the period from 1 to 5 May 1993, United States aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace for the purpose of surveillance and provocation.

1 May 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in the northern region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 45 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-10,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Basra, Jalibah and Busayyah.

- At 1245 hours, a United States TR-1 aircraft engaged in hostile reconnaissance over Artawi, Nasiriyah, Samawah and Amarah. It flew at a speed of 600 km/h and at an altitude of 20,000 m. At 1510 hours, it disappeared south of Artawi, heading in the direction of Saudi Arabian territory.

2 May 1993

(a) Northern region: 14 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-10,000 m, centred on Mosul, Zakho, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Dohuk and Irbil.

(b) Southern region: 37 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 5,000-9,000 m, centred on Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Artawi, Jalibah, Busayyah and Lasaf.

3 May 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in the northern region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 48 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah and Busayyah.

4 May 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in the northern region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 45 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-10,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah, southern Diwaniyah and Busayyah.

5 May 1993

(a) Northern region: 12 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 5,000-8,000 m, centred on Zakho, Amadiyah, Mosul, Dohuk and Tall Afar.

(b) Southern region: 30 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Jalibah, Artawi, Salman, Amarah, Basra, Busayyah, Nasiriyah and Samawah.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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12 May 1993
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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you of fresh violations by the Iranian side of the cease-fire provisions and the terms governing the no man's land between Iran and Iraq during the period from 14 to 30 April 1993.

1. At 1015 hours on 14 April 1993, a group of Iranians, estimated at 10 persons armed with light weapons, approached the border in the area of Shihabi at geographical coordinates 371432 and attempted to cross the border. When the armed Iranians saw an Iraqi patrol approaching in their direction, they withdrew further into Iranian territory.

2. At 0840 hours on 17 April 1993, an Iranian helicopter was observed coming in the direction of the Asyud border post at geographical coordinates 7637. The helicopter then proceeded to the area of Kushk al-Basri at geographical coordinates 9240, then towards the Bubiyan guard post at geographical coordinates 9595, and lastly to the north in the direction of the Zayd guard post at geographical coordinates 000050. It then withdrew further into Iranian territory.

3. At 1110 hours on 17 April 1993, a helicopter approached from Iranian territory and landed at the Khasrawi post at geographical coordinates 435045. Six civilians disembarked. At 1210 hours the helicopter returned to Iranian territory.

4. On 19 April 1993, Iranian forces shelled the Qal'at Dizah Basin and the areas of Pishta Shan and Qirnago. As a result, a number of civilians were killed and wounded, and several Kurdish families fled the area.

5. At 0940 hours on 20 April 1993, the Iranian side fired three 82-mm mortar shells on Baraw at geographical coordinates 864050 600 metres inside Iraqi territory.

6. The Iranian forces again shelled the Qal'at Dizah Basin and adjacent areas on 20 April 1993. Owing to the shelling, many families left for the area of Raniyah. Iranian forces also began to gather to the east of Panjwin, which caused a number of Kurdish families to leave for the area of Sulaymaniyah.

7. At 1430 hours on 22 April 1993, a group of 22 Iranian civilians and military personnel, one of whom held the rank of captain, carried by three vehicles, approached the front line at geographical coordinates 948741 at Shahlan and said offensive words in Arabic to one of the Iraqi soldiers.

8. At 1000 hours on 24 April 1993, the Iranian side dug six fire trenches at geographical coordinates 9130 at Kushk within the no man's land.

9. On 26 April 1993, the Iranian forces shelled civilian areas inside Iraqi territory in the area of Tush Han, as well as areas adjacent to the town of Panjwin. As a result, a number of people were killed and wounded, and some of them were forced to flee to the area of Sayyid Sadiq and the town of Sulaymaniyah.

10. At 1800 hours on 27 April 1993, eight Iranian individuals were observed fortifying shelters at geographical coordinates 514501 in front of the Fakkah guard post within the no man's land.

11. At 1500 hours on 29 April 1993, a group of Iranians composed of one officer and five soldiers approached one of the Iraqi points on Kiska slope at geographical coordinates 5938 and requested the individuals at the Iraqi point to withdraw.

12. At 1400 hours on 30 April 1993, Iranian individuals were observed setting up a machine-gun at geographical coordinates 578-401 opposite the Harran post inside the no man's land.

13. At 1630 hours on 30 April 1993, an Iranian captain, accompanied by an interpreter, approached the Iraqi front line in the Rabaya Alhizam sector situated at geographical coordinates 648270 to the south of the Kani Sheikh region, and requested the Iraqi soldiers to move three kilometres back.

My Government protests at these repeated violations of the cease-fire provisions and terms governing the no man's land between Iran and Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated May 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to you concerning the meetings of the Sanctions Committee held on 5 and 6 April 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have my letter and the annexed letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 May 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letters, the most recent being that dated 13 February 1993, I have the honour to draw your attention to the practices observed in the name of the Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990), known as the Sanctions Committee, and the unjust and unjustifiable positions imposed on the Committee by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and France involving biased and unlawful interpretations of Security Council resolutions and demonstrating the extent of the arbitrariness and injustice that has befallen the Iraqi people as a result of its being deprived of its essential humanitarian needs.

The decisions of the Sanctions Committee at its most recent meetings, held on 5 and 6 April 1993, constitute another example of the injustice and prejudice afflicting the Iraqi people. In a swift review of the requests that the Committee rejected at these meetings, we find the following:

1. Objection by the United States to 33 requests;

2. Objection by the United Kingdom to 25 requests;

3. Objection by Japan to 10 requests;

4. Objection by France to 4 requests.

These unjust positions are dangerous precedents that sully the reputation of the United Nations because they are precedents that conflict with the norms of international law, the United Nations Charter and fundamental human rights. The unjustified objections that emanated from the Committee at its recent meetings, of which I cite some examples below, are clear evidence of the practices to which I have referred:

1. The Committee rejected a number of requests for the supply of textiles to Iraq, including thread for weaving children's clothes, on the pretext that these items are an input for industry. What these arbitrary-minded representatives wanted to say was that Iraq is prohibited from having a textile industry.

2. The Committee rejected a request from the company CIS Paris to supply Iraq with 1,200 kilograms of nylon cloth for filtering flour for the General Company for Grain Processing. The cloth in question is an end-product used in the filters attached to grain mills to rid the flour of adulterants, stones and other foreign matter so as to make it acceptable for baking bread. On this basis, this commodity is a humanitarian staple inasmuch as it enters into the making of bread, the essential food need of all peoples, as the Sanctions Committee would presumably agree.

3. The Committee rejected a number of requests for supplying Iraq with glue to be used in the preparation of textbooks, of which the Ministry of Education alone requires 50 million a year, and notebooks, which are needed by pupils at

all educational levels. In addition, children at the primary levels need this glue for handicraft lessons and technical education. Thus, the argument fabricated by some Committee members that it is an input for industry is not true.

4. The Committee refused to allow the supply to Iraq of 120 tons of rock wool felt, on the grounds that it was an input for industry, whereas rock wool is an end-product used in thermal insulation and having no relation to industry.

5. The Committee refused to allow the supply to Iraq of blank audio cassettes, because they are an input for industry, whereas everyone knows that blank audio cassettes are end-products having no relation to industry.

The above-mentioned items, as well as the other items requests for which were rejected by the Committee at its most recent meetings, out of a total of more than 71 requests, are a humanitarian need for all peoples of the world, and it is unimaginable that the provisions of the United Nations Charter, in spirit or in letter, could prohibit the supply of such items to any country. Nor can we comprehend these objections except as premeditated political moves aimed at depriving the people of Iraq of the most elementary human requirements. Consequently, the work of the above-mentioned Committee has become remote even from the purposes for which it was established, and the continuation of its work according to the current method actually damages the reputation of the international Organization and calls in question its credibility.

I request you to exercise your good offices and intervene to put a halt to these practices, which conflict with all humanitarian considerations. I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
11 May 1993